

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A), PFOR, US, IS

SUBJECT: RABIN VISIT: SUGGESTED TOAST FOR AMBASSADOR
DINITZ'S DINNER FOR PRIME MINISTER RABIN WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 28

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TOAST FOR AMBASSADOR DINITZ'S
DINNER IN HONOR OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN JANUARY 28.
2. MR. PRIME MINISTER -- MRS. RABIN -- AMBASSADOR DINITZ
AND MRS. DINITZ -- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.
3. AT THIS POINT IN ANY STATE VISIT, THERE IS USUALLY A
KIND OF INEVITABLE MINI CRISIS KNOWN AS "TOASTITIS."
EVERY HOST AND GUEST WHO IS TO BE CALLED UPON BEGINS TO
PANIC, WONDERING WHAT MORE THERE CAN POSSIBLY BE TO SAY
AFTER SO MANY TOASTS AND STATEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE.
4. THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM, I AM HAPPY TO SAY, WHICH
AFFLICTS ISRAELIS WHO ARE NEVER AT A LOSS FOR WORDS. NOR

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HAS IT EVER BEEN A PROBLEM FOR ME, AS THOSE WHO KNOW ME

MAY HAVE GUESSED.

5. OUR TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER THESE PAST TWO DAYS HAVE DEALT WITH A WHOLE RANGE OF MATTERS OF GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND BILATERAL INTEREST TO BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS. THEY HAVE QUITE NATURALLY, HOWEVER, DEALT IN PARTICULAR WITH THE OVERRIDING ISSUE OF CONCERN TO ISRAEL, AND ALSO TO US -- THE ISSUE OF WAR AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

6. I BELIEVE IT FAIR TO SAY THAT THESE TALKS HAVE CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A NEW BEGINNING. AS WE PURSUE OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL THE GENEVA PARTIES IN THE PERIOD AHEAD, WE WILL DO SO WITH A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT ISRAEL BELIEVES CAN BE ITS ROLE IN AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS.

7. OUR TALKS HAVE BEEN IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CLOSE AND CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN US, THROUGH WHICH THE U.S. WILL ALWAYS MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COORDINATE ITS EFFORTS WITH ISRAEL AS WE PURSUE OUR DIPLOMACY TO BRING A JUST AND LASTING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST. THOSE LOFTY WORDS WERE WRITTEN INTO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 IN NOVEMBER 1967, AND THEIR REALIZATION REMAINS AS URGENT TODAY -- INDEED IN MANY WAYS MORE URGENT -- AS WHEN THEY WERE WRITTEN.

8. I HAVE STATED VERY OFTEN THAT NO COUNTRY YEARNS FOR PEACE AS ISRAEL DOES. ISRAEL IS A COUNTRY WHICH WAS FOUNDED ON THE PREMISE THAT HUMAN LIFE AND DIGNITY MUST BE PROTECTED. THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY, IT HAS ATTEMPTED TO RECONCILE THE HARSH DILEMMA OF GOING TO WAR WHILE DESIRING PEACE.

9. MR. PRIME MINISTER, WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE DARK DAYS IN 1973. THE CHALLENGES WE HAVE FACED IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE WE HAVE FACED TOGETHER. WE CAN BE PROUD OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BUT WE CANNOT REST. LEADERS DEAL IN HOPE, AND THE HOPE WHICH WE TOGETHER HAVE CREATED THAT ALL PEOPLES IN THE MIDDLE EAST MAY LIVE IN PEACE, IN SECURITY, IN DIGNITY STILL MUST BE REALIZED.

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10. WE MUST BE CANDID AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE PROMOTION OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS NOT BECOME LESS DIFFICULT. EACH STEP TOWARD PEACE WE HAVE TAKEN HAS REQUIRED COMPROMISE, AND EACH COMPROMISE HAS RESURRECTED THE FEARS AND JUDGMENTS OF THE PAST. EACH SIDE IN THIS DISPUTE HAS CONVINCINGLY CALLED UPON HISTORY TO JUSTIFY ITS POSITION. OUR TASK IS TO CHANGE THOSE VERDICTS OF THE PAST AND NOT

SUCCUMB TO THEM.

11. THE TASK BEFORE US IS NEITHER UNIQUE NOR UNREALIZABLE. PEACE HAS NEVER COME BY FIAT, BUT IT HAS COME BY MOVEMENT, SOMETIMES ARDUOUS, SOMETIMES PAINFUL MOVEMENT. JOHN F. KENNEDY ADDRESSING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OVER 13 YEARS AGO REMARKED: "PEACE IS A DAILY, A WEEKLY, A MONTHLY PROCESS, GRADUALLY CHANGING OPINIONS, SLOWLY ERODING OLD BARRIERS, QUIETLY BUILDING NEW STRUCTURES."

12. MR. PRIME MINISTER, WE WILL MOVE TOWARD PEACE TOGETHER, AND WHERE THERE ARE DIFFERENCES, WE SHALL RECONCILE THEM. WE ARE FRIENDS, AND THERE CAN BE DIS-AGREEMENTS, BUT NEVER ON THE FUNDAMENTALS. THERE CAN BE NO SETTLEMENT WHICH DOES NOT ASSURE A SECURE ISRAEL WITHIN RECOGNIZED BORDERS, WHICH DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR ITS LEGITIMACY AS A NATION.

13. IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU AND MRS. RABIN IN THE UNITED STATES. I WOULD LIKE EVERYONE TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. RABIN, TO THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS AND OUR MUTUAL DEDICATION TO PEACE. INGERSOLL

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